

ADOT needs to ask right questions

After reading several articles about the proposed South Mountain Freeway, I have come to the conclusion that we have issues that are not even being addressed. The fact that the proposed Pecos Road transformation is a threat to everyone's health, not just children's, is obviously a big concern for many people in the Ahwatukee area. But this alone cannot be the sole reason to say "No-

Build."

Has anyone come up with an alternative route that would suffice? What is the purpose of building a freeway at the Pecos location? Is it to alleviate traffic problems that are occurring every weekday at rush hour? I was under the impression that this freeway was designed to do just that. However, after driving from Pecos Road to the other side of Phoenix via I-10 Westbound (using the HOV lane, of course), I noticed that this archaic proposal of Pecos is a complete waste of money.

In the morning, the problem is occurring between Ray Road and the 'Broadway Curve' if you are traveling westbound. If you are traveling eastbound, the traffic clogs are occurring somewhere around 51st Avenue (and beyond) to the 'Broadway Curve.' In the afternoon commute home, I-10 is backed up from the intersection of I-17 and I-10 again to the intersection of I-10 and US-60.

After you get past those points, its smooth sailing all the way home.

Conclusion: The problem is where there are merging highways. Once you get beyond those points the problem areas seem a distant

memory. My question to ADOT is why are they not focusing their energy and monies on fixing the traffic problems we currently have instead of creating new problems without solving our old issues. Aside from truckers en route to Los Angeles, who is the highway at Pecos Road going to help?

ADOT, you are not focusing on the real issues. Come up with a logical solution to the traffic problems that Phoenix is seeing on every commute. This archaic plan from 1988 will no longer be a logical, effective solution to Phoenix's problems.

It's time our tax money actually did us a favor instead of becoming one of our biggest burdens.

Melissa Hancock

Avoid 'Freeway of Nightmares'

Dear Editor:

I was pleased to read Dr. Debbins' letter (encouraging light rail). Finally, someone is hitting the nail on the head. ADOT, with our acquiescence, has focused on the wrong problem for the last 20 years. The problem statement is not how to get more vehicles from point A to point B; the problem statement is how do we get more people from

point A to point B.

Even your editorial on the same day focused on the vehicle count. All we have been doing is spending billions of dollars making long and wide parking lots we euphemistically call freeways. We use more oil, forcing our country to be "friends" with countries just because they have the oil we need, we waste our time in traffic, and we pollute our cities.

Let's take the billion for the South Mountain Freeway and the billion or so for the West Valley freeway widening and spend it more sensibly, as Dr. Debbins stated. Let's stop this obsession with making the "Freeway of

Nightmares," build it and we will come.

Let's say "Thanks" to the Gila River Community for putting up with us all these years and let them know that no freeway will be built on their land. Let's insist that our elected officials get more creative and come up with solutions that get us out of our cars.

A billion dollars can get us a lot of ALEX-type buses running all over the Valley (with a frequency somewhat less than every 30 minutes), more Park and Rides and more miles of Light Rail.

Anything other that more long parking lots.

Bill Esson